

[8th February 1924]

A.—(a) & (d) The Government must decline to answer questions relating to the organization and duties of the Special Branch as to do so would be to the detriment of the public interest.

(b) The information is given in the annexed statement.*

(c) The Personal Assistant is in general charge of the Criminal Investigation Branch and the Finger Print Bureau but the details of his work cannot be given. His pay is that of Superintendent of Police plus a duty allowance of Rs. 200 per mensem.

(e) No special pay is given to the clerks, but houses are rented for them subject to a maximum of Rs. 60 per mensem to the head clerk and Rs. 50 per mensem to each of the other clerks.

MR. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ With reference to the answers given to clauses (a) and (d), may I request the hon. the Law Member to state whether the Government can give us any detailed reasons, apart from the vague answer ‘that the Government must decline to answer questions relating to the organization’ ? ”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ In the very nature of things, I cannot give any further answer.”

MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ May I say, Sir, that it is one of the duties of hon. Members on the Government Benches to answer ? ”

MR. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ Is it a fact that the officers in this Department are all non-Indians ? ”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ That is a fact.”

MR. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I know the reason why they are non-Indians ? ”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ So they are.”

MR. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I know, with reference to the answer given in clause (e), why they should be given special allowance subject to a maximum of Rs. 60 ? I know what the nature of their duty is.”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ I must decline to answer that.”

Constitution of districts, divisions and taluks.

Statement showing number of village officers affected by the regrouping of villages.

418 Q.—Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to furnish—

(i) a statement showing the total number of village officers and of menials before the grouping of the villages was ordered, and their number after the grouping so far completed for each district; and

(ii) a statement containing the number of persons whose services have been dispensed with, in consequence of the grouping, in each district under the following heads :—

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| (1) Village magistrates. | (5) Vettis. |
| (2) Village monigars. | (6) Nirgantis. |
| (3) Karnams. | (7) Ghaut talaiyaris ? |
| (4) Talaiyaris. | |

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A.—The Government are not in possession of the full details asked for.

The civil budget estimate for the year 1920–21 gives the number of village officers and menials on duty on 1st April 1920, i.e., before the reduction of establishment was ordered. The statement on page 165 of the Retrenchment Committee's report, which has been placed on the table of the House, gives the reductions ordered by the Board up to 20th September 1923.

A statement giving the above details is appended.*

Village grouping in the Malabar district.

419 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to lay on the table a statement containing the following particulars:—

(a) the number of amsams in the Malabar district, both before and after their recent grouping;

(b) the number of adhikaries, menons and kolkarans whose services were dispensed with in consequence of the grouping;

(c) the number of villages, both before and after their recent grouping, in all the other districts of the Presidency taken together; and

(d) the total number of village officers and menials in the districts mentioned in question (c) above whose services were dispensed with in consequence of regrouping?

A.—The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer to question No. 418.

Village grouping in the Kurnool district.

420 Q.—Mr. K. SARABHA REDDI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased—

(i) to state whether the clubbing of villages has been completed in the Kurnool district; if so, to inform the House how many village reddis, karnams and servants were thrown out of employment; and

(ii) to lay on the table figures showing the retrenchment in expenditure caused thereby?

A.—The Government are not in possession of the details asked for.

Regrouping of villages in Malabar.

421 Q.—Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have ordered the regrouping of villages in all the taluks in Malabar; if so, to furnish in a tabular form a statement showing the number of villages in each taluk both before and after the regrouping, the number of village headmen and karnams and other servants whose service will be dispensed with and the savings that may be effected thereby;